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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/665,588	09/19/2000	Tsuyoshi Yamashita	197264US2	5792

22850 7590 04/28/2003

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EXAMINER

ZIEMER, RITA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2184

DATE MAILED: 04/28/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/665,588

Applicant(s)

YAMASHITA ET AL.

Examiner

Rita A Ziemer

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

2. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1 and 7 recite the limitation "the reference value" in the reference-active-time memory unit. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sadre et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,485,620.

As per claim 1, Sadre teaches a monitor apparatus for sequential-function-chart-type programmable controller, (column 9 lines 54-65) including an active-time memory unit for storing a value of the time of an arbitrary step in a sequential-function-chart program, (column 13 lines 35-65 and column 14 lines 21-40) a timer, (column 25 lines 50-60) and error monitoring which detects anomalous states, (column 14 lines 21-67 and column 17 line 4 – column 18 line 12) the state of a state transition in the sequential-function-chart based on a detected condition would inherently require the comparison of the active time of the current transaction and a reference time. (Column 17 lines 4-13)

As per claim 5, Sadre teaches an execution monitor unit for storing data indicating whether each step in the sequential-function-chart program has been executed, (column 14 lines 27-40, column 16 line 49 – column 17 line 3 and column 25 line 55 – column 26 line 51) and a display unit for displaying the program in such a manner that a step or steps which have been executed are distinguished from a step or steps which have not yet been executed, on the basis of the data stored in the execution monitor unit. (Column 26 lines 7-20)

As per claim 7, Sadre teaches a monitor apparatus for sequential-function-chart-type programmable controller, (column 9 lines 54-65) including an active-time memory unit for storing a value of the time of an arbitrary step in a sequential-function-chart program, (column 13 lines 35-65 and column 14 lines 21-40) a timer, (column 25 lines

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50-60) error monitoring which detects anomalous states, (column 14 lines 21-67 and column 17 line 4 – column 18 line 12) the state of a state transition in the sequential-function-chart based on a detected condition would inherently require the comparison of the active time of the current transaction and a reference time, (column 17 lines 4-13) an execution monitor unit for storing data indicating whether each step in the sequential-function-chart program has been executed, (column 14 lines 27-40, column 16 line 49 – column 17 line 3 and column 25 line 55 – column 26 line 51) and a display unit for displaying the program in such a manner that a step or steps which have been executed are distinguished from a step or steps which have not yet been executed, on the basis of the data stored in the execution monitor unit. (Column 26 lines 7-20)

As per claim 2, Sadre teaches a display unit for displaying the program in such a manner that a step which has been detected by the error monitoring to be in an anomalous state is distinguished from other steps. (Column 26 lines 7-20)

As per claim 3, Sadre teaches an execution monitor unit for storing data indicating whether each step in the sequential-function-chart program has been executed, (column 25 lines 55-60) wherein the display unit displays the program in such a manner that a step or steps which have been executed are distinguished from a step or steps which have not yet been executed, on the basis of the data stored in the execution monitor unit. (Column 26 lines 7-20)

As per claims 4, 6 and 8, Sadre teaches that when conditions for transition from a certain step to the next step are satisfied, (column 14 lines 27-40 and column 16 line 49 - column 17 line 3) the execution monitor unit brings a corresponding execution-

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completion trace indicator to a predetermined state to thereby indicate whether the step has been executed. (Column 25 line 55 – column 26 line 51)

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rita Ziemer, whose telephone number is (703) 308-7090. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday and alternating Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST.


If attempts to reach the examiner by phone fail, the examiner's supervisor, Robert W. Beausoliel, Jr., can be reached at (703) 305-9713. Additionally, the fax numbers for Art Unit 2184 are as follows:

After-final (703) 746-7238
Official (703) 746-7239
Non-Official/Draft (703) 746-7240

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist at (703) 305-9600.

Rita Ziemer

4/24/03


Robert W. Beausoliel, Jr.
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2184